

REMARKSStatus of the Application

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected.
Claims 3-9 are objected to.

Drawings

In response to the objection to the drawings, Applicants have limited claim 9 to a cow embodiment and added new Figures 6-8 depicting a cow embodiment. New Figures 6-8 are supported in the specification as filed at paragraph 0025.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 as being anticipated by Arkin U.S. Patent No. 3,992,805. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Arkin is directed to a savings bank for receiving and segregating coins into three compartments. Each of three bird figures have a coin slot that communicates with a channel leading to one of three drawers mounted in the base.

Applicants' Claim 1 is distinguishable from the Arkin disclosure in that claim 1 requires "a plurality of appendages" through which money may be dispensed. The Examiner states that Arkin drawers 44, 46, 48 may be viewed by as appendages. Applicants respectfully disagree. An "appendage", within the context of a bank that is shaped like an animal, refers to "a subordinate or derivative body part, esp.: a limb or analogous part (Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, Merriam Webster Inc. 1983, page 96). Arkin's drawers do not constitute appendages because they are not fall within the scope of this

definition, and thus Arkin does not disclose this limitation of Applicants' claim 1.

Claim 1 is further distinguishable from Arkin in that claim 1 requires that the a bank "shaped like an animal." This wording limits the invention to a bank shaped like a single animal. Arkin does not teach a bank shaped like a single animal. Rather, Arkin teaches a bank shaped like a bird nest with three bird figures on top and the drawers below.

Applicants' claim 2 is further distinguishable from Arkin in that claim 2 requires that the appendages are "feet." The term "feet" in the context of the claim refers to the feet of an animal. Arkin does not disclose this limitation, since Arkin's money is not dispensed through the feet of the bird figures depicted in the Arkin bank.

Objected To Claims

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's statement that claims 3-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that the objection to claims 3-9 is moot in view of the foregoing arguments regarding claims 1 and 2.

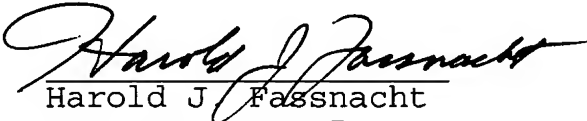
New Claim

New claim 10 has been added, which limits the bank to one in which the feet are hooves. This claim is supported in the specification as filed at Figure 1, which depicts a bank shaped like a pig, in which the feet (14) are hooves.

Summary

It is believed that this paper constitutes a complete response to the Office Action mailed Jan. 21, 2005, and an early and favorable action allowing claims 1-10 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,


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